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SENATE BILL 685

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Vernon D. Asbill

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; EXTENDING THE TIME FOR MILITARY
VETERANS TO APPLY FOR LOTTERY TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 21-1-4.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
Chapter 71, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-1-4.3. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED--CERTAIN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.--

A. To the extent that funds are made available by
the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the boards of
regents of New Mexico state university, New Mexico institute of
mining and technology, eastern New Mexico university, western
New Mexico university, the university of New Mexico, New Mexico
highlands university and northern New Mexico [~~state school~~]
college shall award tuition scholarships for qualified resident

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1 students attending their respective institutions and branches
2 of those institutions.

3 B. Except as authorized in ~~[Subsection]~~ Subsections
4 C and D of this section, the tuition scholarships authorized in
5 this section shall apply only to full-time resident students
6 who, immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at
7 a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
8 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, are accepted for
9 entrance to and attend one of the state educational
10 institutions set forth in this section or one of the branches
11 of those institutions. Each tuition scholarship shall be
12 awarded for up to four consecutive years beginning the second
13 semester of the recipient's first year of enrollment, provided
14 that the recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and
15 maintained a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0
16 scale during ~~[his]~~ the first semester of full-time enrollment.

17 C. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
18 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who,
19 immediately upon completion of a high school curriculum at a
20 public or accredited private New Mexico high school or upon
21 receiving a graduate equivalent diploma, attend a two-year
22 public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico and
23 who, upon the completion of that curriculum or at the end of
24 two years, whichever is sooner, transfer to one of the post-
25 secondary state educational institutions set forth in this

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1 section. Those students shall be eligible for a tuition
2 scholarship for two consecutive years, provided that those
3 students maintain residency in New Mexico, maintain a grade
4 point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and attend the
5 institution full time during the regular academic year.

6 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
7 section shall also apply to full-time resident students who:

8 (1) within one hundred twenty days of
9 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
10 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
11 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
12 armed forces; and

13 (2) within [~~one hundred twenty days~~] twelve
14 months of completion of honorable service or medical discharge
15 from the service are accepted for entrance to and attend one of
16 the state educational institutions set forth in this section.

17 E. The [~~commission on~~] higher education department
18 shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit student
19 continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for
20 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines
21 shall be distributed to the board of regents of each
22 institution to enable a uniform availability of the resident
23 student tuition scholarships."

24 Section 2. Section 21-13-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963,
25 Chapter 17, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

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1 "21-13-10. BOARD DUTIES.--

2 A. It is the duty of the community college board to
3 determine financial and educational policies of the community
4 college. The community college board shall provide for the
5 management of the community college and execution of these
6 policies by selecting a competent president for the community
7 college, and, upon the president's recommendation, the board
8 shall employ other administrative personnel, instructional
9 staff or other personnel as may be needed for the operation,
10 maintenance and administration of the community college.

11 B. The community college board shall have the power
12 to fix tuition and fee rates for resident and nonresident
13 students of the community college district, to accept gifts, to
14 accept federal aid, to purchase, hold, sell and rent property
15 and equipment and to promote the general welfare of the
16 institution for the best interest of educational service to the
17 people of the community college district.

18 C. To the extent that funds are made available by
19 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the community
20 college board shall award tuition scholarships for qualified
21 resident students attending their respective institutions.

22 D. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
23 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who:

24 (1) immediately upon completion of a high
25 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico

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1 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,
2 are accepted for entrance to and attend a community college; or
3 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
4 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
5 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
6 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
7 armed forces; and within twelve months of completion of
8 honorable service or medical discharge from the service are
9 accepted for entrance to and attend a community college.

10 E. Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up
11 to two consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
12 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
13 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained
14 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during
15 [~~his~~] the first semester of full-time enrollment.

16 [~~E.~~] F. The [~~commission on~~] higher education
17 department shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit
18 student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for
19 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines
20 shall be distributed to community college boards to enable a
21 uniform availability of the resident student tuition
22 scholarships."

23 Section 3. Section 21-16-10.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996,
24 Chapter 71, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

25 "21-16-10.1. TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.--

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1 A. To the extent that funds are made available by
2 the legislature from the lottery tuition fund, the board of a
3 technical and vocational institute shall award tuition
4 scholarships for qualified resident students attending a
5 technical and vocational institute.

6 B. The tuition scholarships authorized in this
7 section shall apply only to full-time resident students who:

8 (1) immediately upon completion of a high
9 school curriculum at a public or accredited private New Mexico
10 high school or upon receiving a graduate equivalent diploma,
11 are accepted for entrance to and attend a technical and
12 vocational institute; or

13 (2) within one hundred twenty days of
14 completion of a high school curriculum at a public or
15 accredited private New Mexico high school, or of receiving a
16 graduate equivalent diploma, begin service in the United States
17 armed forces; and within twelve months of completion of
18 honorable service or medical discharge from the service are
19 accepted for entrance to and attend a technical or vocational
20 institute.

21 C. Each tuition scholarship shall be awarded for up
22 to two consecutive years beginning the second semester of the
23 recipient's first year of enrollment, provided that the
24 recipient has maintained residency in New Mexico and maintained
25 a grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during

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1 [his] the first semester of full-time enrollment with renewal
2 of an additional two years upon transfer.

3 [G.] D. The ~~[commission on]~~ higher education
4 department shall prepare guidelines setting forth explicit
5 student continuing eligibility criteria and guidelines for
6 administration of the tuition scholarship program. Guidelines
7 shall be distributed to the boards of technical and vocational
8 institutes to enable a uniform availability of the resident
9 student tuition scholarships."